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PORT OF COLUMBIA

COMMISSIONERS
LAWRENCE TURNER
ROBERT WARREN
ROBERT JAY LYMAN
DONALD G. TURNER, MANAGER
NEALEY & MARINELLA, ATTORNEYS

1 PORT WAY
DAYTON, WASHINGTON 99326

OFFICE BUILDING
1 PORT WAY
TELEPHONE (509) 382-2577
FAX (509) 382-4473

March 8, 2000

Federal Caucus Review Board
707 West Main Street, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Draft Lower Snake River Salmon Feasibility - Report and EIS

The Port of Columbia highly disapproves of No. 4, Dam Breaching Alternative, for the following reasons.

Twenty-six coast runs of salmon and steelhead are listed under ESA. Eight more are candidates for listing. Only 4 of these must pass the lower Snake River dams. Dam removal is definitely not the answer to saving salmon in the northwest.

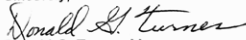
Ten years ago, the best scientific information said only 10-30% of salmon smolts survived the trip past the dams. Today, NMFS says that survival is now as high or higher than it was in the 1960s and 1970s before the dams were built. If survival is as high now as before the dams were built, breaching the dams is not the answer.

Dam breaching will trigger harmful environmental impacts. Billions of tons of accumulated silt will be released. Some biologists believe it may wipeout all fish for many years to come in the river below. The river would then have to be replanted with hatchery fish, which is what they are trying now to avoid. The increased emissions from coal and gas burning plants will put thousands of tons of pollutants into the atmosphere in their effort to replace lost electrical power.

Loss of irrigation to an area capable of feeding a million people would be disastrous. The loss of surface area of water will greatly reduce evaporation, affecting the weather pattern in much the same way loss of wetlands would. The loss of navigation will affect the economy of this area for all time to come.

We oppose dam breaching. Fish are important, but more important is not only our economy, but our ability to survive in a world of competition in agriculture, manufacturing and technology. We believe breaching the Snake River Dams is our first major step to becoming a second or third rate nation.

Sincerely,



Donald G. Turner, Manager
Port of Columbia